

Good Launching

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME **SERIOUS** MISSILE LAUNCHING?

ARE YOU **KIDDING?** HAVE YOU **SEEN** THE SHAPE OF MY LAUNCHER?

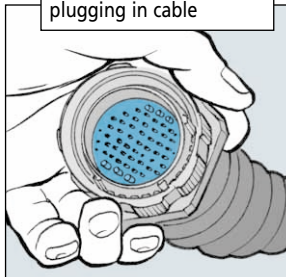
It stands to reason. If your Kiowa Warrior's M279 missile launcher is in bad shape, you won't be launching too many Hellfires. Good launching begins with launcher care and PM.

Check before you plug it in. If you plug in the launcher umbilical cable connector without first checking both the launcher and aircraft connectors for obstructions and bent pins, you risk a 3-day repair job. That's how long it takes to replace the aircraft connector.

If you spot dirt or sand in the aircraft connector, clean it out with an air hose and an artist's brush. Stubborn dirt on pins can be cleaned with water and detergent. After cleaning, rinse the connectors with clean water and then put isopropyl alcohol on the pins.

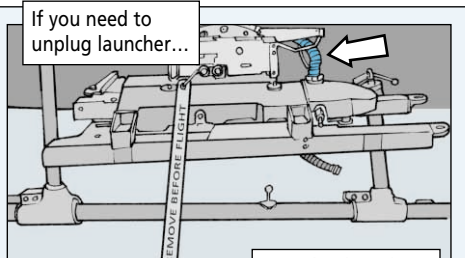
Check the umbilical connector for bent pins, particularly pins 98 and 99. If you have any doubts about either connector, don't plug in the umbilical connector. Get your repairman to check it out.

Check connectors for dirt and bent pins **before** plugging in cable



Once the umbilical cable connector is plugged into the aircraft, leave it plugged in. Plugging and unplugging the umbilical just increases the danger of damaging the aircraft connector. If you need to fold up the launcher, disconnect the connector on the launcher.

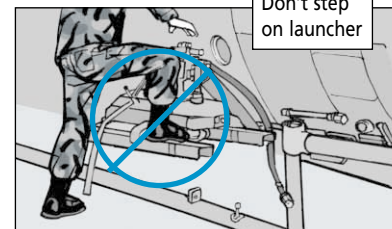
If you need to unplug launcher...



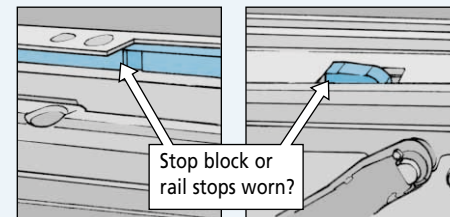
...unplug launcher umbilical connector

Don't step on the launcher. It may look like a good step, but the launcher is not built to hold your weight. If you step on it, you damage the environmental cover assembly and, worse yet, bend the launcher rail. Result: the missile doesn't hit the target or doesn't even make it off the launcher.

Don't step on launcher

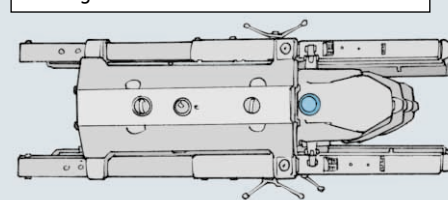


Eyeball the stop block and rail stop on each rail. If a block is worn, a missile could slide right off the launcher. If a rail stop is working itself out, the missile won't stay locked in. Your mechanic can replace worn stop blocks and rail stops.



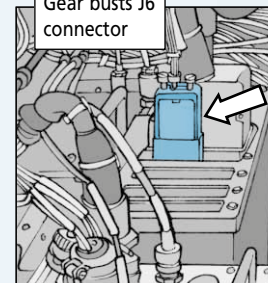
Never stack launchers on top of each other when you remove them from the aircraft. That crushes the launcher's umbilical connector. Keep the launchers in their protective cases.

Stacking launchers crushes umbilical connector



Don't store gear in the avionics compartment. The remote Hellfire electronics unit (RHE) has a delicate J6 connector. A duffel bag can snap it right off and keep you from firing any missiles. And it's difficult to get replacement connectors.

Gear busts J6 connector



WHATEVER YOU DO, **DON'T STACK LAUNCHERS!**

